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Resume U. S. Production and Marketing Administration.

New Mexico

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

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FARM PROGRAM NEWS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DAIRY INCOME EXPECTED TO DECLINE SOMEWHAT

- Dairy farmers can expect a decline in the demand for dairy products as consumers increase expenditures for so-called durable goods - automobiles, washing machines, etc. -- and less for dairy products in 1947, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Although returns to dairy farmers will decrease, income will likely continue well above parity price levels unless a business recession develops sooner and more seriously than now expected. The most notable decline is expected in consumption of fluid milk and cream, leaving more milk and butterfat for production of butter. November creamery butter output was 15 percent above November, 1945.

WOOL PROGRAM EXTENDED - The USDA program to improve marketing practices for wool will be extended to February 28, to cover an additional 500,000 pounds of wool. When graded, sorted, and packaged, the wool will be offered for sale to interested woolen mills. Originally, the project called for the preparing of wool acquired under Government purchases to make it a more acceptable product than domestic wool as it is ordinarily prepared. The program, announced last June, has been carried out cooperatively by the Texas A & M College and local growers associations, under the direction of USDA's Production and Marketing Administration.

(MORE)

NEW MEXICO MILL HAS

OILSEED CAKE AND MEAL - Oilseed cake and meal are still in relative short supply throughout New Mexico. In an effort to assist farmers and ranchers who are having difficulty in locating cake or meal, the Production and Marketing Administration released the following information today.

Officials of the El Paso Cotton Industries, Division, Western Cottonoil Company, Las Cruces, New Mexico, have stated they will reserve a substantial portion of their production to satisfy the needs of New Mexico farmers and ranchers. The mill's operating capacity may delay filling of some orders. It was therefore suggested that farmers and ranchers who need cake or meal or both, place their orders as far in advance as possible.

The company has a huge amount of cottonseed on hand and processing into cake and meal is now well under way.

Details as to price, shipping and etc., may be obtained from the company.

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BEAN PRODUCTION UPPED BY

TERRACING AND CONTOUR FARMING - When the Santa Fe County ACA Committee contacted Mr. Paul Simmons of Stanley, New Mexico to assist him in planning his 1946 conservation work, Mr. Simmons asked the committee, "does it pay to terrace, and what would be the returns for sub-soiling?" The committee cited some good examples where these practices had paid, and Simmons decided to try out the practices on his bean land. After terracing a few hundred acres, then following with sub-soiling and contour farming, he had the land in good shape for planting. In spite of one of the driest springs in Santa Fe County in the past 50 years, he planted, and managed to get a good stand on 300 acres of beans. Although the summer rains didn't begin until the middle of July, Simmons decided to take a bigger chance and plant another 400 acres of beans, which he completed the latter part of July. The land being in very good shape to hold the rains and being thoroughly soaked, the beans came up in a very few days. At the end of 60 days, Simmons harvested almost 400 pounds of beans to the acre, or a total of about 2,600 bags.

With the price of beans around \$15 a hundred, the committee asked Simmons if conservation pays. With a \$40,000 smile on his face, he didn't need to answer the question, "Does it pay?"

Mr. J. W. Gassman, Chairman of the Santa Fe County Committee, says that many farmers, after seeing the success on the Simmons farm, are including terracing and contour farming in their 1947 farm plans.

(MORE)

BETTER U.S. EATING

MEANS MORE MARKETS

-- Feeding the American people is the farmer's job. So how well the American people are fed has a lot to do with the markets farmers can find for their products. Nutrition programs of the Department of Agriculture are aimed at better standards of diet -- which mean greater demand for farm products and more money in the farmer's pocket.

Here's a summary of programs now being operated by USDA;

School Lunch - Aimed at providing school children with nutritious meals, it also helps form good eating habits. Federal aid for school lunches has continued and expanded for 11 years. With the enactment of the National School Lunch Act this spring, Congress put the work on a permanent basis. All 48 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories have now signed school lunch agreements.

Direct Distribution - Through this program the Department distributes fresh fruits and vegetables and other food purchased in connection with price-support operations. Commodities are turned over to schools for use in school lunches, or sent to institutions or welfare recipients. Has a stabilizing effect on market prices at time of peak production.

Home Food Preservation - More than 6,000 community canning centers have been established through this program. Through these centers, local surplus foods are saved for family and school lunch use. Program is used to prevent food waste in peak production seasons, and provides means for canning commodities bought by USDA under the Direct Purchase Program.

Industrial Feeding - Aimed at raising nutritional level of industrial workers. Program provides technical and information services to industrial feeding facilities. At the same time, an important market is developed for plentiful and surplus food.

National Nutrition - Chiefly a coordinating program designed to extend the knowledge and practice of good nutrition. Machinery is provided through which all agencies in the field of nutrition can bring their educational resources into line with a common objective.

(MORE)

FARM EXPERTS SOUGHT
FOR RESEARCH ADVICE

- The Department of Agriculture has asked 250 national producer and commodity organizations for their suggestions on the membership of advisory committees to direct the administration of the new Marketing and Research Act. Nominations from other sources also will be welcomed by the Department, which has the job of staffing 17 commodity committees and 4 functional committees with "broad-gauge, public-spirited citizens thoroughly conversant with the operations and problems of the industry each represents."

The committees - covering livestock, dairy, poultry and poultry products, citrus fruits, deciduous fruits, vegetables, potatoes, nuts, grains, feeds and seeds, rice, dried beans and peas, cotton, wool, tobacco, peanuts, soybeans and flaxseed, transportation, storage, packaging, and foreign trade - will help direct the new program of research into basic laws and principles of agricultural marketing, transportation and distribution, new uses and the improvement of marketing facilities. A committee of 11 national agricultural leaders and the Secretary of Agriculture, who direct the research program as provided by law, have asked for the nominations.

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FARM NEWS SHORTS

Higher prices for nearly all farm products boosted U. S. farm cash receipts during the first 11 months of 1946 to around \$21.6 billion, USDA reports. This is 14 percent above the same period last year, and about equal to the 12-month income in 1945.

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"In Italy, political stability and law and order hand on the scales on which the meager bread rations are weighed out." - D. A. Fitzgeralds, Secretary-General, International Emergency Food Council.

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"The real wealth of our nation - food, minerals and fiber - comes from the soil, and conservation practices are prolonging the soil's usefulness for decades, even centuries." - John F. Cunningham, Dean of Agriculture, Ohio State University.

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"More people have gone into debt to purchase farms during each of the last four years than in any other year since 1920." - Secretary of Agriculture, Clinton P. Anderson.

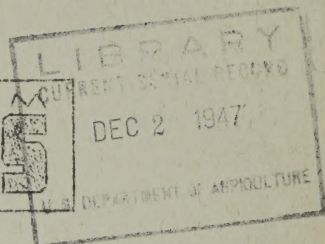
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

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FARM PROGRAM
FARM NEWS



SANDOVAL COUNTY FARM

YIELD INCREASES 40% - Do soil conservation practices actually pay in dollars and cents? According to William Kiesov, Chairman of the Sandoval County Agricultural Conservation Committee, there are two Sandoval County farmers who answer this question with an emphatic "yes."

Under the Agricultural Conservation Program, Felix Silva and A. F. Apodaca, working together on their 60 acre farm, practically changed its whole contour by changing their system of irrigation, terracing or flat leveling where necessary, and by removing a number of cottonwood trees which long had been a hindrance to cultivation.

Formerly there were 9 ditches, requiring 8 men for 4 days to irrigate the fields, and even then some sections were slighted or flooded. Now there are 2 lateral main ditches, requiring only 2 men for 1-1/2 days to do a thorough irrigating job. This, in itself, amounts to considerable saving, since the fields are irrigated 6 to 8 times yearly. Too, there are now fewer ditches to clean and repair, and less material required for check dams and outlet boxes.

On 10 acres, which were put into permanent pasture, 35 head of livestock were pastured from June 1 to October 31. The other 50 acres are in alfalfa.

Mr. Kiesov says that the cost of the improvements averaged about \$65.00 an acre. The relocation of ditches added about 3 acres of irrigable land, and most important, the productivity of the farm increased at least 40%.

(MORE)

PAYMENT OF COTTON CROP INSURANCE

INDENNITIES TO BE SPEEDED UP IN 1947 - Payment of indemnities and premiums under Federal all-risk crop insurance on cotton crops will be based on a fixed cotton price for 1947 instead of the cash cotton prices used in previous programs, Chairman (Name) of the (Name) County Agricultural Conservation Committee has announced.

The cotton price to be used in determining these payments will be 90 percent of the average price of cotton for the month of July on the ten spot-cotton markets, he said. Both indemnities and premiums are figured in pounds of cotton and converted to dollars and cents to make payments, he stated.

Under previous programs, the figure used for this conversion has been the cash price of cotton on the date the premium was paid and the date the farmer received his indemnity payment.

Using a fixed price for cotton will speed up the payment of crop insurance indemnities to farmers, Chairman said. Farmers will also know that the price of cotton used to figure their premium payments will be the same one on which their indemnity payments will be based.

Federal all-risk crop insurance is now being offered on the 1947 cotton crop. Full information on coverage, premium rates and other provisions of the program can be obtained from the county office in (Place), or from agents now selling insurance throughout the county.

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NOLE FATS IF THEY OUT - For the first time since 1942, the U. S. during the first quarter of 1947 will import more fats and oils than it exports. About 240 million pounds are scheduled for import and 138 million pounds for export. Exports of fats and oils from the U. S. are principally lard, soybean oil, shortening, margarine, and soap. Imports are mainly copra (for crushing into coconut oil), linseed oil, castor beans and oil, tung, and rapeseed.

(MORE)

ACP LIFE SAVER

TO MOSQUERO FARMER - "The Agricultural Conservation Program just can't be beat! It's tops," states Mr. W. T. Lofton, Mosquero, New Mexico, a real old timer in AAA.

Mr. Lofton is a long time resident of Harding County, and has been participating in the AAA Program ever since it began. To him it has been a life-saver.

At the time that AAA was organized, he was far in debt with his farm mortgaged to the Farm Security Administration. He was in bad shape, and he knew it. He decided the only thing to do was to sell out - to give up, and he discussed this plan with his wife. She was opposed so he determined that he would pay for the place somehow. When the AAA program began functioning, he was able to obtain better prices for his farm products, and in 1939 was able to pay off the mortgage. He gives AAA most of the credit for this accomplishment.

Though his land was in fair condition, some of it was slightly eroded, and he contour furrowed the land for three years. One 20 acre patch had suffered quite a lot of damage from wind erosion, however, and was hard to control. This was sowed back to grass and now has a fine cover of grass and is in excellent condition.

Mr. Lofton is principally a wheat farmer, and is a firm believer in summer fallowing. He has his wheat acreage divided in half. Each year only half of it is planted to wheat; the other prepared for summer fallow. Immediately after harvest, the stubble is turned under. Later he chisels the land for he believes that chiseling will hold the moisture better than listing. He maintains that summer fallowing has raised his wheat production at least 10%.

Mr. Lofton has been offered \$20.00 an acre for his land with everything removed except the house and fences. This is a good price for dry land in Harding County. He prefers to till the land himself, however, and remain an ACP Co-operator.

(MORE)

WARTIME PRICE SUPPORT
PROGRAMS END WITH '48

- President Truman's proclamation of the cessation of hostilities has two effects which are of primary importance to farmers.

First, it sets December 31, 1948 as the terminal date for the principal wartime price support programs. Price supports for three general classes of commodities were guaranteed to farmers by war emergency legislation for two full calendar years following the cessation of hostilities to assist in readjusting agricultural production to peacetime requirements:

(1) "Basic" commodities (specified in the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 as corn, cotton, wheat, rice, tobacco and peanuts for nuts) -- during the emergency period at 90 percent of parity (92½ percent for cotton), and after the emergency at 52 to 75 percent of parity levels variously specified in the Triple-A Act as amended unless Congress provides otherwise by December 31, 1948.

(2) "Steagall" commodities -- hogs, eggs, chickens over 3½ pounds live-weight, turkeys, milk and butterfat, dry beans and peas of certain varieties, soybeans and flaxseed and peanuts for oil, American-Egyptian cotton, potatoes and sweetpotatoes, as proclaimed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture under terms of the Steagall Amendment -- at 90 percent of parity during the emergency period, and without any price support, unless Congress otherwise provides, after December 31, 1948.

(3) "Other" commodities -- such as wool, naval stores, sugar beets, sugarcane, grain sorghums, rye, certain fruits and vegetables and seeds -- to bring the price and income of producers of these crops to a fair parity relationship with the other two types of commodities during the emergency period, without price support, unless Congress otherwise provides, after December 31, 1948.

Second, the President's proclamation sets December 31, 1948 as the date when restrictions on the disposal of cotton by the Commodity Credit Corporation prescribed in (Section 381 (c) of) the Triple-A Act of 1938 again become operative. (Continued Page 5)

(MORE)

These restrictions prohibit CCC from selling cotton below cost and limit sales in any calendar month to 300,000 bales and in any calendar year to 1,500,000 bales.

The President's proclamation does not affect authorities of the Department of Agriculture under the War Powers Act and the Price Control Extension Act of 1946 which include War Food Orders, the making of certain subsidy payments, the monthly certification of commodities in short supply, and others.

* * * * *

QUARANTINE BARS STOCK

IMPORTS FROM MEXICO - Recurrence of foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico has put that country back on the list of Nations which may not import animals into the United States. The quarantine order excludes cattle, sheep, goats, swine, fresh meat, and other specified products originating in Mexico. Purpose is to protect the livestock of the U. S.

The list of countries where foot-and-mouth disease is present includes most of those in Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America. Appearance of the disease in Mexico is unusually significant, however, because of the large importations which the U. S. normally receives from that country.

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FARM NEWS SHORTS

The aim of the National Farm Program -- Security to the producer; conservation of our natural resources; abundance of food and fiber now and in the future; and agricultural stability.

* * * * *

"The long-continued welfare of agriculture and rural life in the final analysis must rest on the continued ability of farmers to produce nutritious crops and healthy livestock, as well as to find satisfactory outlets for these products." -- W. V. Lambert, USDA Research Administrator.

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New Mexico

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

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FARM PROGRAM
FARM NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FARM PROGRAM IS HIGH

ON MAJOR POLICY LIST - Importance and urgency of a continuing Federal farm program was underscored in President Truman's listing of it as the fifth major policy recommendation in his annual State of the Union message to Congress.

"We must be sure of meeting the problems which we failed to meet after the first World War," the President said. "Present laws give considerable stability to farm prices for 1947 and 1948, and these two years must be utilized to maintain and develop markets for our greater productive power.

"The purpose of these (price support) laws was to permit an orderly transition from war to peace. The Government plan of support prices was not designed to absorb, at great cost, the unlimited surpluses of a highly productive agriculture ... The farmer is entitled to a fair income. Ways can be found to utilize his new skills and better practices, to expand his markets at home and abroad, and to carry out the objectives of a balanced pattern of peace-time production without either undue sacrifice by farm people or undue expense to the Government."

In his later economic report to Congress, the President declared that the Nation's long-range agricultural policy should aim to preserve the family-sized farm and to prevent another agricultural depression.

"To achieve parity of farm living, we need to improve rural school facilities, increase the number of rural hospitals, extend rural electrification, and bring about many other advancements which contribute to an improved standard of living."

-- Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson, in speech at Louisville, Ky., January 9, 1947.

(MORE)

HOSTILITIES DECLARATION

HAS SECONDARY EFFECTS - Besides affecting price support programs on farm products, the President's proclamation of the cessation of hostilities in World War II has these effects on programs related to agriculture:

1. Starts liquidation of labor supply centers, labor homes, labor camps, and facilities utilized in the war farm labor supply program by July 1, 1947;
2. Causes expiration of the Surplus Property Act of 1944 on December 31, 1949;
3. Ends the suspension of the running of statutes of limitations upon prosecutions for certain frauds against the United States, effective December 31, 1949;
4. Terminates authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to exempt various federal excise taxes on sales to Federal agencies where the benefit of the exemption will accrue to the United States; and,
5. Terminates the Presidential power to seize plants and facilities.

In his Proclamation, the President noted that a state of war still exists and that the states of emergencies declared by President Roosevelt on September 8, 1939 and May 27, 1941 have not been terminated.

* * * * *

PLENTY OF ONIONS - Onions from the 1946 crop are setting an all-time record, with production of 36,911,000 fifty-pound sacks exceeding the 10-year (1935-44) average by 52 percent. To celebrate the occasion -- and to help move the crops to market -- January 27 to February 1 has been designated National Onion Week. With the Western, Eastern, and Midwest crops (all larger than last year) coming to market during the first part of the year, added efforts by producers, handlers and consumers will be necessary to avoid waste in moving the record crop.

(MORE)

FARM ABUNDANCE RESTS

ON BUSINESS, INDUSTRY - When the price cycle turns downward, will business and industry match agriculture in providing abundant production? That is the challenge of the future, in the opinion of Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson. Unless business and industry finds an answer other than the cutting of production, agriculture faces three alternative lines of action -- all of them unwanted by farmers, according to the Secretary:

1. Inequality for farmers in a contracting economy, a repetition of what happened after World War I.
2. Reduced farm production. "This alternative is impractical, if not impossible, even in these days of highly organized agricultureit doesn't fit the frame of mind of the farmer."
3. A subsidized agriculture. "Agriculture wants a market -- not a hand-out."

In remarks before the annual meeting of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, the Secretary pointed out that after the first world war, farm production remained quite constant but farm product prices fluctuated. On the other hand, industrial production zig-zagged; prices remained steady. Mr. Anderson called attention to the need for taking better care of our farm plant. "We have been using only a little more land in recent years than before the war, but we have been cropping that land much more intensively, raising crops that have put a heavy drain on soil fertility during more years of the rotation, and using grass and legumes for a shorter period," he said.

"With the passing of the emergency food demands we shall have opportunity to make more extensive use of the soil conservation knowledge we have gained. We should treat that opportunity as a necessity. Soil conservation must be a major consideration in making the best use of our agricultural plant."

COTTON IN COMEBACK;

PRICE, LOANS INCREASE - Cotton prices in early December rose to a point 8 to 8½ cents per pound higher than prices a year earlier. On December 14 cotton prices were about 5 cents above the lowest point reached during the market break in late October, but about 6 cents per pound (or \$30 a bale) less than the peak reached in early October.

During November, farmers increased the quantity of cotton under loan from about 400 bales weekly to from 12,000 to 19,000 bales per week. However, only 65,791 bales had been placed under loan through December 7, compared with 134,397 bales in 1945. Cotton production for 1946 is estimated at 8,482,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight, only 7 percent more than the 1921 crop, which was the smallest since 1895. The 1947 cotton goal calls for 23 million acres, which would exceed 1946 plantings by 26 percent. Increased production is needed to meet domestic and foreign requirements and maintain reserves.

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FAIR NEWS SHORTS

For a large part of continental Europe -- particularly Germany, Austria, Italy, and Rumania -- the food outlook for the next six months is as serious as a year ago, USDA reports.

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The average value of commercial vegetables sold for fresh consumption in 1946 was nearly a fourth below the 1943 peak price although still 45 percent above the 1935-44 average, while truck crops for processing in 1946 set a new record for average returns per ton.

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First official estimates of the 1946 production of small grains and rye in Argentina indicate record and near-record crops, with barley production exceeding 1945 by 21 million bushels, and oats by about 12 million bushels.

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New Mexico

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PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

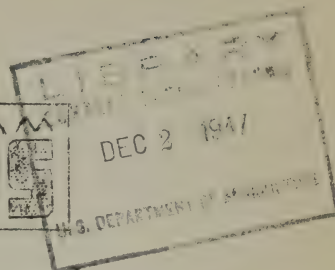
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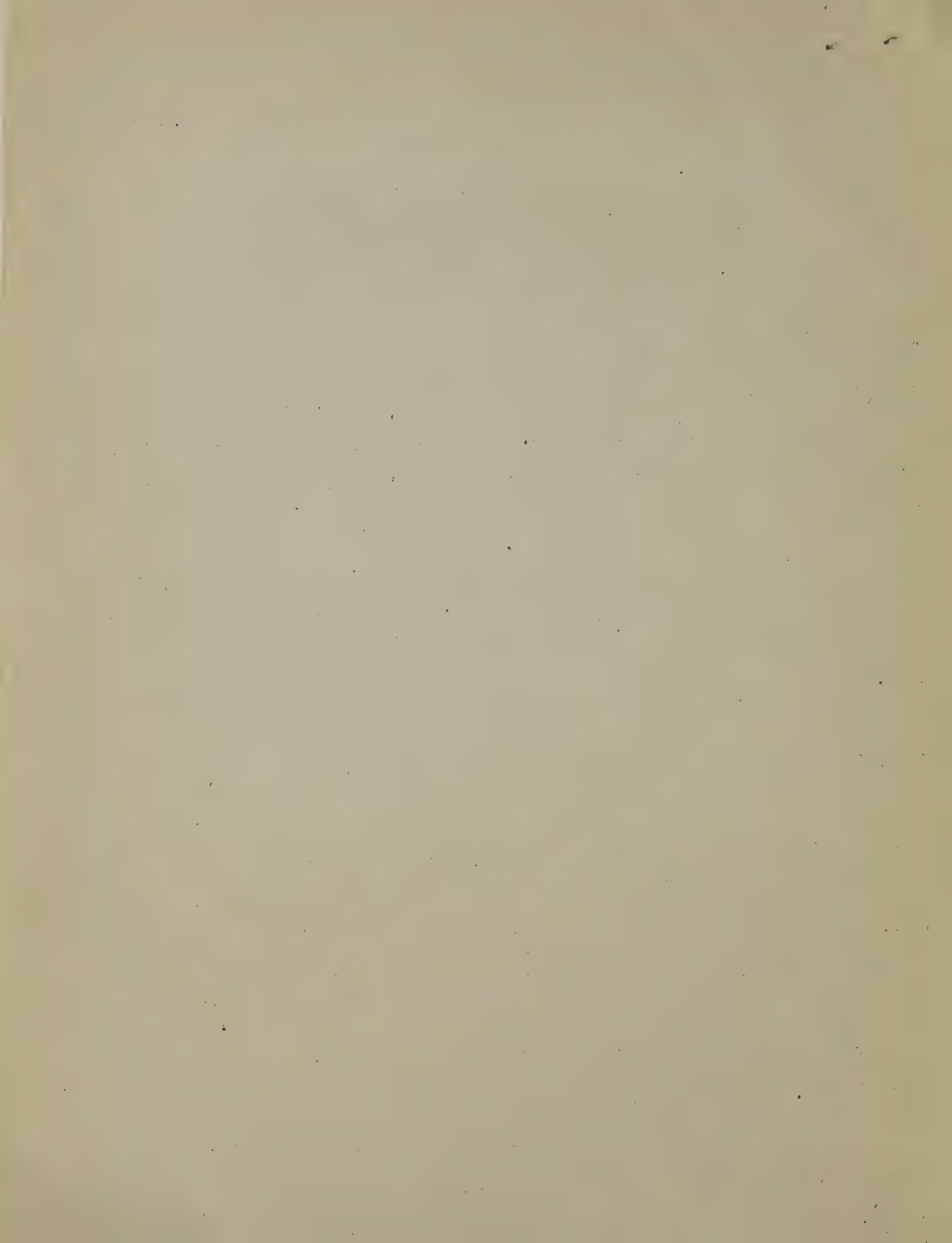


CROP INSURANCE SHOWS

"BLACK" ON '45 LEDGER - Preliminary indications for the 1946 Federal Crop Insurance year point to favorable balance on wheat and flax programs, but large losses in cotton due to weather and boll-weevils. The 1945 crop year was the first time, according to the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation's annual report "that black ink has shown up on the final ledger for any commodity," when premiums exceeded indemnities on wheat, flax, and trial tobacco insurance. Both cotton and trial corn insurance programs show deficits for 1945. Unfavorable weather in the Cotton Belt and excessive moisture and frost in corn areas were main causes of losses in 1945.

While good yields contributed greatly to the wheat success in both 1945 and 1946, the report by the Corporation states that experience gained in the seven years of wheat operations has resulted in many program-strengthening measures. These changes along with relatively large participation place the wheat crop insurance program on a sound basis. Nearly a half million wheat farmers will be insured in 1947, according to the report. The insurance program on flax, similar to wheat in cultural practices, has benefited from changes worked out in the wheat program and favorable weather made possible the good insurance experience on flax.

Severe drought and heavy boll-weevil infestations were largely responsible for cotton losses. In some areas, infestations in 1946 averaged almost 50 percent and were as high as 100 percent on some farms. Drought in the western one-third of the Cotton Belt, where a large part of the cotton insurance business was concentrated in 1945, halved long-time average yields in many counties. The Corporation is
(Continued on Page 2)



making several important changes to strengthen the cotton insurance program in 1947, the report states. The changes will move up closing dates for taking out insurance, add one level of insurance, increase premium rates, and simplify the program by specifying the coverage in pounds per acre at various production stages.

Trial insurance was in its first year in 1945. The report states that one year has not furnished sufficient information to satisfactorily analyze the plans. Trial insurance is offered on corn and tobacco in limited number of counties. Trial insurance on these crops is in its third and final year in 1947.

"Federal crop insurance is still in the early stages of development as time is measured in the insurance business," the report states, "in this brief period the answers to all crop insurance problems have not been found, but substantial progress has been made."

At the present time the Corporation is conducting a selling campaign on spring wheat, flax, and cotton insurance. Winter wheat sales were concluded last fall.

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"EVERYTHING IS SATISFACTUAL" - These are the factors which the Department of Agriculture says put a rose-colored tint on 1947 crop prospects for the U. S.:

***Midwinter conditions fully as promising as those preceding any of the recent record-crop years. Fall and early winter conditions also have been favorable.

***Harvesting of 1946 crops completed early, for the most part, so that fields could be prepared for more extensive fall seedings and for spring planting.

***Soil moisture generally adequate.

***Seeds of all kinds in ample supply and of good quality.

***Commercial fertilizers expected to be available in quantities more nearly approaching demands.

***New farm machines moving to farms in increasing numbers.

(MORE)

PRODUCTIVE U.S. LAND

SHRINKING: NEEDS GO UP - The number of acres of land good enough to grow food and fiber is shrinking each year while the country's population increases, even though the U.S. has taken great strides over the past decade to save its soil and water resources.

This was the warning theme of two talks given recently by Dave Davidson, national director of the Agricultural Conservation Program. Davidson pointed out that if all the harvested cropland of the U. S. were divided equally, every man, woman, and child would have about 2-1/2 acres each for all their food and much of their clothing needs.

A half-million acres of our good land is going out of production each year through erosion and soil depletion.

While that picture is alarming, he said, it has improved from the situation when the Nation was losing productive land at the rate of a million acres each year. With the aid of the Agricultural Conservation Program, U. S. farmers have made headway in slowing down the destruction of farmland. For example, in 1946 they used about 25 million tons of lime, more than six times the amount used in 1936 when the Agricultural Conservation Program began.

Altogether, 3-1/2 million of the Nation's farmers and ranchers are now carrying out soil-building practices in the ACP on two-thirds of the country's cropland. Even so, we have been growing 3 acres of soil-depleting crops where our land can stand only two, he continued.

"Our soil has been 'expendable' during the war and the emergency famine period. We must start replenishing our bank account of soil fertility before it is exhausted."

Emphasizing the importance to the consumer of soil conservation Davidson said: "More and more the Nation is...finding that the value of our food is largely determined by what we put in the soil that grows it."

(MORE)

FEED GRAIN STOCKS

RECORD SIZE - First-of-the-year farm stocks of feed-grains total more January 1 of this year than on January 1 of any year except 1943. In relation to livestock and poultry numbers, current feed supplies of very good quality are the largest of record and exceed those of any other January 1 by at least 7 percent.

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DRIED EGG PRICE

DROPS TWO CENTS - After February 1, egg driers must certify that they have paid producers an average of 33 cents a dozen for all shell eggs purchased in order to have their offerings of dried eggs for delivery considered under the Government's purchase program. The new price reflects a normal seasonal decline of two cents for the February 1 through April period.

Under the extended purchase program announced recently, an additional 10 million pounds of dried eggs will be bought for the United Kingdom. This will make a total of 20 million pounds which the British Government has sought so far this year for use under its food rationing program.

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1946 FARM INCOME

MAY SET RECORD - Farm income in 1946 may stand as a record high for some time. The Department of Agriculture reports a preliminary figure of 24.1 billion dollars for cash receipts from farm products last year -- 16 percent above 1945 and the biggest farm income on record. Receipts from crops were 18 percent above the preceding year, while livestock receipts were up 14 percent. Possibilities of a drop of 10-15 percent in farm income are seen for 1947 as a heavier volume of consumer's goods competes with food for incomes.

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SPUD SEED PLENTIFUL - Potato growers will have a record-breaking supply of seed for their 1947 crop. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports that the 1946 harvest of certified seed potatoes reached 42,436,905 bushels, exceeding the previous record crop in 1945 by 27 percent.

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New Mexico

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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1946 ACP PAYMENTS READY;

SIGN-UP TO BEGIN SOON FOR 1947 - (Name) County farmers who carried out approved soil-building practices during 1946 are now receiving payments covering Uncle Sam's share of the costs, according to County Chairman _____ of the Agricultural Conservation Committee.

Meanwhile, he said, plans for the county's 1947 Agricultural Conservation Program are well under way. Community committeemen throughout the county will soon be talking over conservation plans for this year with their farm neighbors.

"Once these plans are complete," said Chairman _____ "we'll review them and allot funds to help carry out practices this spring, next summer and fall. We want to get the most conservation possible in 1947."

_____ explained that farmers and the Government, through ACP, share the cost of maintaining and building the county's soil and water resources "because good land benefits everybody. It means better income for the farmer and better health for consumers and protected soil resources for the Nation."

The county office at _____ (Location) is already planning the conservation program for 1948. Before long now, the committee chairman explained, suggestions from this county will be sent on to the State Office of the Production and Marketing Administration where they will be forwarded for consideration in building the framework for the national program.

"This program is operated by farmers," he said. "It's up to them to make it work."

(MORE)

FERTILIZER SUPPLY

TO REACH NEW HIGH - Record production of fertilizer is expected in 1946-47, probably more than double the 1935-39 average prewar consumption. But demands apparently still greatly exceed supplies.

Stocks of nitrogen materials will be almost as large as last year. There will be about 8 percent more soluble superphosphate. Potash supplies will be slightly above last year.

However, considerably more fertilizer than is now available could be used advantageously at the present price level, says the Department of Agriculture. Farmers who used no fertilizer in prewar years are now using it with good results. Other farmers are using more fertilizer per acre and obtaining higher per-acre crop yields. During the last 5 or 6 years, the steadily increasing supply of fertilizers has been an important factor in the record crop production of U. S. farmers.

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INCREASE NOTED IN SIZE

OF AVERAGE U.S. FARM - U. S. farms are getting larger.

The revolution in farm production during the past few years has been accompanied by a substantial increase in the number of larger farms, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Today over half the farm land is in farms of over 500 acres compared with only one-third in 1920. The typical farm operated as a family enterprise is much larger, while bigger commercial units are becoming more numerous.

For the country as a whole, the average farm is now 50 acres larger than 25 years ago and 20 acres larger than 5 years ago. Oklahoma, for example, was an area settled almost entirely in 160-acre homesteads, but the average farm increased from 166 acres in 1920 to 220 acres in 1945.

BAE credits the strong demand for farm products since 1940, plus rapid strides in mechanization and other technological advances for the increase.

(MORE)

SCRAP IRON NEEDED

FOR FARM MACHINERY - Farmers who hope to get new equipment during 1947 will do themselves a good turn to sell their old scrap iron and give a boost to the production of industrial steel.

That's the appeal of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating with the Office of Temporary Controls (CPA) and the steel industry in trying to round up the Nation's unused scrap iron and steel and turn it to good purpose. Steel for new farm machinery should be fabricated of as much as half remelted scrap metal if it's to be turned out rapidly, efficiently, and economically.

This is a profitable time to sell scrap, CPA advises. With prices decontrolled dealers advanced their offers to the highest figures in years and they are eager to receive scrap from farms. All grades of cast scrap are especially needed now, and farmers are urged, wherever weather permits, to collect and sell every piece of scrap that they can spare.

This is the second request for movement of old scrap iron in recent months. Steel production is at an abnormally high level in trying to catch up with post-war civilian needs. But steel mills generally are getting only enough scrap iron to run on a week-to-week basis. In prewar times, they often had enough scrap stockpiled to last several months. CPA states that steel production faces a slow-down between now and spring unless scrap iron continues to show up in large quantity.

Continued high steel production is needed to meet market demands for new farm equipment, housing, automobiles, and innumerable industrial products. Farm machinery production alone has been breaking all records in recent months with a \$70,000,000 volume in October including nearly 30,000 tractors.

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USDA SHARPENS EYE

ON FARM MARKETS - To provide closer contact with the commodity exchanges and the effect of market manipulations on farm commodity prices, the Commodity Exchange Authority will be reestablished on February 1 as an independent agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture after a year and a half as part of the PMA Compliance and Investigation Branch. J. H. Muhl, who has been branch director, reassumes full-time direction of Commodity Exchange Act enforcement. The action follows recent wide price fluctuations in several commodity markets which had sharp effect on prices received by farmers.

(MORE)

FARM OUTLETS GROW - These are some of the new and varied uses of farm products developed in recent research by the Department of Agriculture:

Artificial fibers from the proteins of peanuts, corn, milk and feathers; plastics, plasticizers, and rubberlike products from raw farm materials; fiber board and liquid fuels from crop residues, as well as material for use in air-blast cleaning of machinery; starch from sweetpotatoes, wheat flour, and moldy corn; industrially useful materials through chemical processing of fats; new materials from nicotine; new types of candy, which have better balance than ordinary sugar candy because of increased protein, fat and vitamin contents.

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FARM NEWS SHORTS

Per capita consumption of fats and oils in 1946 was 90 percent of prewar in the U. S., 79 percent in the United Kingdom, and from 40 to 70 percent of prewar in other European countries.

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Potato stocks on January 1, totalled more than 150 million bushels says the Department of Agriculture. This is 25 percent larger than stocks in 1946, and 42 percent above the 1936-45 January average.

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Commercial hatcheries produced 1,213,194,000 chicks in 1946, according to preliminary estimates. This was 25 percent less than the year before, and the smallest output since 1941.

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Turkey production in 1947, estimated at 34-1/2 million birds, is expected to be down 16 percent from 1946 output -- the second successive reduction since the peak production year of 1945.

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DISTRICT ACP CONFERENCE

Mass conservation work is the objective of the Production and Marketing Administration. Mass planning and educational work are necessary to accomplish this objective. With this thought in mind, District ACP Conferences are being held throughout the state this month. State PMA and County ACA Committeemen, ACA Secretaries and County Extension Agents will make final plans at the conference for greater assistance to New Mexico farmers and ranchers on their conservation problems in 1947.

Chairman _____ of the _____ County ACA Committee said that he and other members of the Committee and the ACA Secretary leave this next week for the conference in this district, which will be held in _____ on _____ and _____.

"Plans for the 1947 ACP sign-up will be completed and announced shortly after the conference," Mr. _____ said. "I know that farmers and ranchers are anxious to get started on this year's conservation work."

(NOTE: Edit, fill-in, and release.)

